

**ALEXANDRIA GAZETTE
AND DAILY ADVERTISER.**

PUBLISHED BY

SAMUEL SNOWDEN,
ROYAL STREET.

Daily Gazette \$7 Country Gazette \$5.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21, 1818.

ON SHERIDAN.

BY CURT.

He's gone!—and the spirit ethereal, undying,
Has entered the long night of stillness and gloom;
And genius around him, in wild sorrow flying,
Shall brighten the laurel that hangs o'er his tomb.
Dear emblem of greatness! still flourish unfolding,
To mark where the bright star has set in the grave,
(For to Sheridan dear is the spot thou art shading)
Which glows with the last parting radiance it gave.

It shall rise like his soul, which, envelop'd in darkness,
Cast a glory around, that no gloom could deform,
When life's opening sky was overclouded and sparkless,
And angrily lower'd with the pestilent storm:
It shall bloom on the sod, chill'd by death's pallid fingers,
And the sigh of the Muse, as each fresh bud appears,
Will fan it to beauty, while fondly she lingers
To water the cold turf unseen with her tears.

Then spurn not his name, but reflect whom thou slightest,
And give to remembrance the soul-treasur'd tear;
He had faults as a man—but where genius shines brightest,
The dark spots of folly the darker appear:
In December's cold night when the tempest is howling,
We mark not one cloud through the gloomy profound—
But when radiant the sky, if that lone cloud were scowling,
How darkly 'twould hang 'mid the brightness around.

He's gone!—but the spirit ethereal, undying,
Shall burst from the long night of stillness and gloom,
Like the morn of that land, which, ere night shades are flying,
Breaks forth at one flash, and the light is their tomb.
Then as genius on earth shew'd the man as it found him,
Nor hung the light veil, by kind charity given—
Ah! may mercy at last throw her mantle around him,
And the darkness be lost in the brightness of Heaven.

July 16, 1817.

EXTRAORDINARY ACCIDENT.

The following extraordinary accident occurred about 5 o'clock on the morning of Friday last, in Carver's street:—As a drove of oxen were passing thro' Spelman street, one of them strayed to the Castle Green, whence in his headlong course he fell over the precipice facing the bridge, upon a house, of which the inhabitants were asleep in bed. It will naturally be supposed that the terror and alarm excited on the occasion were great. Fortunately, however, part of the roof fell in, while the ox was balancing athwart a beam, exactly over a bed in which were two children fast asleep, and who were awakened by a rafter falling upon the bed. Notwithstanding all the alarm and bustle created by this occurrence, we are happy to add that no personal injury was sustained on the occasion, and what is equally remarkable, the ox does not appear to have suffered materially from his extraordinary descent. [English paper.]

MOURNING.

A letter from Leicester, of November 15, states, that in consequence of the general mourning in England for the Princess Charlotte, black goods of all descriptions have advanced 35 per cent. [ibid.]

THE SEASON.

Such is the extraordinary mildness of the present season, that a second crop of strawberries is at this time actually growing on some plants in a garden at Prescott. [ibid.]

NATURAL PHENOMENA.

There is at present in a gentleman's garden at Kensington, Low hill, near Liverpool, a pear tree, the fruit of whose bloom was gathered two months ago. I has since then had fruit on from the second bloom; and is now in bloom for the third time this season. [ibid. Nov. 20.]

Golden Rule of Agriculture.

A practical husbandman of the highest authority assures us, that the golden rule of agriculture is—to use such manures as will make heavy land lighter, and light land heavier, cold land hot, and hot land colder. He who knows and follows this rule, and no other, is a farmer. [ibid.]

**ALEXANDRIA:
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21, 1818.**

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT AT WASHINGTON.

Tuesday, January 20, 1818.

One of those bills which are rarely known to furnish matter for long debate, gave, yesterday, rise to a discussion which lasted till past four o'clock. It was an appropriation bill, for military purposes; and probably would have experienced little opposition if it were not for an amendment of it proposed by Mr. Lowndes, the chairman of the committee of ways and means, who reported it, and, as he said, at the desire of that committee. The amendment went to strike out a clause which provided a sum of thirty-five thousand dollars for the payment of brevet officers. Mr. Mercer opposed this proposition with much animation and warmth. He deprecated it as a violation of the faith pledged by that house to the army, and as such not strictly correct or honorable. In the moment of urgent distress, at the commencement of the war, government held out this promise of brevet rank not only with its honors, but with its emoluments, to induce our citizens to enter into the army; and now, the war being over, and there being little or no occasion for their services, they were to be cast off without their pay, and their claims repelled, and in that house baffled with metaphysical distinctions.—The act which passed in 1812 held out, as an incentive, brevet rank to officers in cases where they distinguished themselves; and particularly specified that they should have the pay annexed to the rank when employed in posts or districts or departments separate from their own regiments. Mr. Mercer dwelt with great emphasis on the gallant and meritorious conduct of the army, and said that it was not so much for the reward as for the example he pushed the rights of the brevet officers, which were so manifest that he defied any ingenuity to give a construction of the act of 1812 that could defeat them. Till that law should be repealed the committee of finance were bound to provide for the payment of the sums it promised; and had no right whatever to propose to the house to cancel the debt in the manner now attempted. He was, he said, one of the last who would agree to a reduction of the army. He even thought the army established for the peace was much too small; yet he would rather reduce the army than repeal the law of 1812. Mr. Mercer was supported in his opposition to the amendment by general Harrison, Mr. Ogle, Mr. Baldwin and general Smith, who were replied to by Mr. Clay, Mr. Calbraith, Mr. Serjeant, general Read and Mr. Taylor. The observations of Mr. Clay are deserving of particular notice. He said, as nearly as we could collect it, to the effect that a spirit prevailed of making the army a paramount object of national reward and aggrandisement, and of a gratitude without any reasonable limits, as if the obligations it had conferred were such as the country could scarcely repay, and as if the country were made for the army; but this extravagant spirit he would ever oppose—knowing that the army was made for the country. From what was constantly heard, one would suppose that they who composed the army were dragged into it reluctantly, and that the nation had contracted when their services was over to retain them on their pay list for life.—But every one knew that, by their original contract, they were to be no longer retained than should be found necessary for the prosecution of the war; at the end of which it was well understood that they were to return back again to civil life. On these terms they were called in and paid during the service. He expressed his ardent hope that he should never see in this country during peace such an army as would keep it at all times prepared for going to war, being convinced, and he avowed it with regret, that it would end in the destruction of the liberties of the country.

Mr. Clay repelled most successfully every insinuation that the military had not received, to the full measure of their deserts, great as those deserts were, every reward, whether of gratitude, applause, the love of their fellow-citizens, or pecuniary gratification, which they could reasonably hope for. Poets, historians, legisla-

tures, theatrical companies, corporate bodies, and civic assemblies, in every part of the union, all concurred in honoring and liberally rewarding them. He denied that the grant of brevet had pay annexed to it by the law, unless where the officer acted in a separate post—and yet what was the consequence of even that indulgence?—Why, the War Department was incessantly importuned by brevet officers to place them at separate posts—not because their services were wanted there; but that they might receive the pay annexed to that situation. To correct, and at one stroke cure this grievance, was, he said, the object of the motion. That if the public exigencies required the services of those officers at separate posts, they were, under the act of 1812, entitled to pay, he would be the last to deny—But to their right to be paid when they got there, solely by their own importunity, he for one, would never agree. It was a flagrant abuse, and it ought to be corrected.

Mr. Mercer said that the remedy for that abuse was to correct and prevent a repetition of it, not to abrogate the law abused. General Harrison said that the officers actually performing duty as brevets, would be thrown out along with the others, if this motion passed; and Mr. Baldwin insisted that while the law was unrepealed, the appropriation ought not to be withheld. To strike out the section was the same as to say, that though they had passed an act promising to pay those officers, they would withhold their pay from them. If any of them were appointed to posts, the war department was responsible for the abuse. And upon the whole it was unworthy of the house, for so small a sum, to get rid of such a solemn pledge.

As I have already gone to the full length of my customary tether, I should stop here, if it were not more to endeavor to do justice to my old favorite, Mr. Ogle. He said that if the house was positively assured of a permanent peace, it might be wise policy, of a certain kind, to withhold these people's pay from them—because it would save so much money, and could do no harm by discouraging men from fighting for us hereafter. But as he believed that if we did not become more virtuous than we are, we should soon have another war, he thought it would be best to pay these officers, by way of an inducement hereafter to others to fight for us. "Besides, (said he) will it not look like a trick, to promise, and not pay them?—Look at England! (continued he)—and sure no one will pretend to compare England with this country—the English purchased an estate of eighty thousand pounds sterling a year for Lord Wellington.—There was brevetteing for you! As to an army of 50,000 men destroying our liberties, he would not believe that 100,000 could do it—for American soldiers were all virtuous citizens. No—it was not soldiers; it was ambitious citizens—great men—nobles that would do that job for us, if ever it was to be done at all. As to this mode of paying brave men for fighting our quarrels, it was not such as he could approve of.—How did you lose your legs, my poor fellow?—Where did you lose your arms?—No matter—We will pay you for them—don't be afraid—we will pay you—with wisdom—with breath—with promises; but as for money—why that is a dear article at present." "Now I," continued Mr. Ogle, "I want them to have a little of it in cash!"

The following gentlemen were on Monday last elected Directors of the Bank of Alexandria, for the ensuing year: William Herbert, Jonah Thompson, Nathaniel Wattles, William Fowle, Mordecai Miller, Charles Simmes, Jonathan Janney, Anthony C. Cazenove, John Lloyd, Thomas H. Howland. And at a meeting of the Bank on Tuesday, Wm. HERBERT, Esq. was re-elected President.

The following gentlemen were on the 15th inst. elected Directors of the Marine Insurance Company of Alexandria, for the ensuing year: Nathaniel Wattles, John Janney, Jacob Hoffman

Phineas Janney, George Taylor, Thomas H. Howard, Jonah Thompson, Mordecai Miller, James H. Hooper, John Ramsay, John C. Vowell, Thomas Irwin, Charles L. Gallett, William Fowle, William Barnwell. At a meeting of the Board, Wm. Herbert was elected a Director, in place of NATH'L WATTLES, re-elected President, and JAMES B. NICKOLLS, re-elected Secretary. The Board have unanimously agreed to strike out of the Policy the clause deducting two per cent. from all losses.

From the Baltimore Patriot, Jan. 19. GENERAL MINA AGAIN. Captain Gantz, arrived here last evening in the schooner Elizabeth, 23 days from Campeachy, states, that a few days before sailing, advices were received there of General Mina's having been EXECUTED in the neighborhood of Mexico, on account of which the town was brilliantly illuminated. Captain G. further states that it was asserted and fully credited that the followers of Mina were either dispersed or annihilated; of course, the cause of the Patriots in Mexico must be in a most forlorn state.

From the Winchester Gazette, of Jan. 17. VALLEY BANK. Agreeably to notice, the Stockholders of the Bank of the Valley assembled at the Court House in this place on Wednesday last, when the meeting was organized by calling the Honorable Dabney Carr to the chair, and appointing Thomas A. Tidball, Esq. Secretary. Some business preparatory to the election of Directors, which was postponed until the next day was done. On Thursday the Stockholders again assembled when, on counting the ballots, it appeared that Charles Magill, Edward McGuire, John Bell, Thomas Cramer, Obed Waite and Lewis Wolfe, Esquires, were elected Directors by a large majority. It is worthy of note that Colonel Magill received the unanimous support of the stockholders. The whole number of votes to which the Stockholders are entitled, amounted to 2700 of which 2,500 were polled. It was resolved, that Offices of Discount and Deposit be located at Leesburg and Romney. The subject of locating the branch in Berkeley or Jefferson Counties, was postponed until Thursday, when, after an interesting and animating debate among different gentlemen of the long robe from Martinsburg, Shepherdstown, and Charlestown, it was determined to locate the centre branch at Charlestown. The votes stood thus: For Charlestown 1215, Shepherdstown 688, Martinsburg 441.

The following Gentlemen were unanimously elected Directors of the office of Discount and Deposit at Romney and Leesburg, viz. AT ROMNEY. James Daily, William Fox, William Naylor, Warner Throckmorton, John McDowell, James Machir, John Leep, David Parsons, William Armstrong, Christopher Heiskell, William Donaldson, John Wright, Jacob Vandever. AT LEESBURG. Wilson C. Seldon, Ludwell Lee, Richard H. Henderson, John Rose, Asa Moore, Fleet Smith, Culbert Powell, George Rust, Charles B. Ball, Aaron Saunders, Robert Braden, John J. Harding, Samuel Carr.

From the Savannah Repub. Jan. 12. ANOTHER SKIRMISH WITH THE INDIANS. An express reached Darien on Wednesday last, from Major General Gaines, to Major Nix, the officer commanding at Darien, dated at the mouth of the Oconee river, 5th January, 1818, stating that he (General Gaines) had just received an express from Col. A. Burke, informing him that Major Muleburg, who was ascending the Flint river with three vessels

having on board a detachment of United States' troops, provisions, etc. was attacked thirty miles below Fort Scott by twelve hundred Indians and— from both sides of the river, on the 16th ult. When the express left, which was on the 18th, the firing from both parties continued; at which time Major Muleburg had three men killed & thirteen wounded; but there was not the least apprehension of any of the vessels being taken that were under his command. The troops so defended themselves in the vessels, from the enemy, that they were perfectly safe. No man was killed or wounded only when in the act of warping, or casting anchor. Capt. McIntosh, who commanded a post 12 miles from Fort Scott, with 40 men, was attacked on the 15th ultimo, by between 2 and 300 Indians—Capt. M. defeated them without losing a single man, and has since been relieved. There had also been a skirmish between the friendly and hostile savages, in which the chief of the former was killed, in consequence of which a number of the party under his command deserted and joined the hostile Indians. The drafted troops from this division were assembling at Darien every day, and it was understood that they would march immediately for Hartford. Gen. Glascock, at the head of 1000 men from this state, left Hartford for the Indian nation on the 27th ult. in good order and high spirits. We understand the troops that were drafted from this city will take up their line of march on Wednesday next for Darien.

From the National Intelligencer. AMELIA ISLAND. DOCUMENTS ACCOMPANYING THE MESSAGE OF THE PRESIDENT TO CONGRESS, ON THE 12TH INSTANT. (Continued.) Navy Department, Nov. 14, 1817. Sir,—Having been appointed to the command of the United States' ship John Adams, you are hereby ordered, in conformity to the wishes of the President of the United States, to proceed forthwith to the port of St. Mary's, in Georgia, taking with you the United States' brig Enterprise and Prometheus, and the schooner Lynx, if the two latter have arrived in New-York, and are in a state of readiness to accompany you; but you will not procrastinate the departure of the ship John Adams on account of these vessels, as any of them not fully prepared to proceed with you shall be ordered to join you as soon as practicable at St. Mary's, at which place you will find the United States' brig Saranac, captain John H. Elton, and gun boat No. 168, lieutenant commandant R. McCall, both of which vessels will act under your orders.

The object of the President of the United States in ordering this naval force to St. Mary's, is to remove from Amelia Island the persons who have lately taken possession thereof, and, as it is understood and believed, without authority from the colonies, or any organized government whatever, and to the great annoyance of the United States. It has, therefore, been determined that these persons shall be removed from that island, and that possession shall be taken for the present by the land and naval forces of the United States. On your arrival at St. Mary's, you will consult with the officer commanding the military force, who is instructed to cooperate with you in the performance of this service. It is hoped that these persons will withdraw without bloodshed; and you will, for this purpose, should your relative rank be superior to that of the commanding officer of the land forces, make known to the chief commanding in Amelia the determination of the government of the United States to take possession of the island, and if the said chief, and the armed forces under his command, will peaceably quit the island, you will permit them so to do, taking special care that no depredations be committed on the inhabitants, whom it will be your duty to protect from violation or injury, either in their persons or property. Should the force, however, now in command of the island, contrary to all expectations, resist and refuse absolutely to give up and abandon the same, you are to cooperate with the military force of the United States, to proceed and take possession of the island in the name and by the authority of the United States.

Should you fall in with, or your way to St. Mary's, or find in Amelia, any vessels from the United States, armed and equipped by American citizens, acting as privateers, contrary to the laws of the United States, you will capture such, and send them to Savannah, in Georgia, to be dealt with according to law. You will detain all prizes, or other vessels, having slaves on board, as the presumption is strong that they are intended to be smuggled into the United States. You will report, from time to time, to this department, the operations of the force under your command. I am, very respectfully, &c. B. W. CROWNSHIELD. Com. J. D. Henley.

P. S. These orders are not to be delivered to any person. U States' ship John Adams, off Amelia, Dec. 24, 1817. Sir.—I have the honor to transmit a copy of the correspondence with general Aury, late commander of this place, and

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